

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 2615, THE
UNITED STATES-NORTHERN TRI-
ANGLE ENHANCEMENT
ENGAGEMENT ACT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2615, the "United States-Northern Triangle Enhancement Engagement Act."

H.R. 2615 supports the people of Central America and strengthens United States national security by addressing the root causes of migration from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

H.R. 2615 will provide reports on drivers of migration from the Northern Triangle to the United States and will identify methods for the United States to strengthen fragile democracies in the region.

Thousands of immigrants flee the Northern Triangle to seek asylum and refuge in the United States of America.

The number of asylum seekers worldwide originating from the Northern Triangle reached 110,000 in 2015, a five-fold increase from 2012.

Poverty, corrupt police forces, gang violence, political corruption, and economic instability exacerbate living conditions in the Northern Triangle.

Homicide rates are extremely high for Central American countries; El Salvador is leading the way with a rate of 82.84 per 100,000 persons.

Salvadorans, Hondurans, and Guatemalans leave their homes in search of physical security, democracy, freedom, and civil liberties.

They look toward the U.S. as a beacon of hope and prosperity, often traveling miles while battling hardships and risks to pursue the American Dream.

This bill seeks to combat corruption among political institutions in the region to reinforce security and lead to the development of civil society.

We must address the origins and the structural causes of migration to address the issues that lead to mass migration to our southern borders.

Our agencies are unequipped and are incapable of meeting the demand of sheltering and processing immigrants who arrive at our ports of entry.

Our nation's security depends on the stability of the Northern Triangle.

We must act to ensure that the countries in this region return to a functioning democracy, free of corruption and violence.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2615 to assist in reestablishing democratic and peaceful societies in the countries of the Northern Triangle.

RECOGNIZING THE VETERANS'
MENTOR GROUP OF OUTAGAMIE
COUNTY, WISCONSIN

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2019

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work, dedication,

and outstanding service of Veterans' Mentor Group in Outagamie County, Wisconsin.

Since its creation in 2015, Veterans' Mentor Group has assisted countless veterans in Northeast Wisconsin navigate the struggles of transitioning to civilian life. The group's success is evident as three graduates of the program are now members of the group's leadership team. Along with founding members Bill and Beverly, Thomas Barrett, Scott Hutchings, Michael Gawel, and Rodney Schreiber work to ensure Outagamie County Veterans feel supported and connected. I am confident its members will continue to help many more veterans as the program grows.

Veterans' Mentor Group consists of volunteer veterans and partners within Outagamie County who share and understand the experiences of military service. The group assists veterans with their basic needs, as well as engaging in socialization and reintegration back into their communities. I am proud to have a veteran-run organization in my district that strives to help fellow veterans. The volunteers of Veterans' Mentor Group truly demonstrate what it means to engage in selfless service.

The Veterans' Mentor Group also assists the Veteran Treatment Court in Outagamie County and increasing veterans' awareness of resources and benefit programs. Bill Trombley, along with Beverly Weber, Todd Raley, and Jason Laber, worked hard to ensure this support program for veterans in Outagamie County became a success. Their efforts and commitment are integral in creating this successful program.

Madam Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in applauding Veterans' Mentor Group, its board, and its veteran volunteer mentors for their service to veterans in Northeast Wisconsin.

THE EMERY COUNTY PUBLIC
LAND MANAGEMENT ACT IN-
CLUDED IN S. 47, THE JOHN D.
DINGELL, JR. CONSERVATION,
MANAGEMENT, AND RECREATION
ACT

HON. JOHN R. CURTIS

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2019

Mr. CURTIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding the Emery County Public Land Management Act, that was included in S. 47, the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act. This became Public Law 116-9 on March 12th, 2019.

Throughout 2018 and early 2019, Senator Hatch, Senator ROMNEY, and myself heavily engaged with the Emery County Commissioners and Emery County Public Lands Council to draft this important piece of legislation. After Senator Hatch's retirement, Senator ROMNEY helped to carry the ball across the finish line.

This law is the result of countless hours of deliberation, and thus I find it important to highlight some areas of congressional intent of particular interest. While these should generally be clear in the text and corresponding map, the historical context of how we arrived at some of these decisions may be of benefit to the Department of the Interior, future members of the Utah delegation, or those in Utah.

The Utah delegation, and particularly myself, look forward to the implementation of this new law.

Of note, Jake Bornstein (my Legislative Director), Romel Nicholas (Senator Hatch's public lands staffer), and Kelsey Berg (Senator ROMNEY's Deputy Chief of Staff) were the main staff points of contact in our respective offices for the bill. Jake and Romel have extensive correspondence with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that further demonstrates the accurate characterization of the congressional intent I outline here.

Most important to this process, our founding principle was to never take any action that would end a current ongoing use. For example, we were immensely careful to not close a road, trail, air strip, or other existing use in the legislative text or corresponding map with a wilderness designation. Further, we worked extensively to avoid more restrictive designations, such as wilderness, to areas it would limit ongoing activity. We worked to draw designation boundaries along geographic and physical features, or just outside a cherry stem, to ensure management made sense for the area.

Any designation boundary that does not follow these trends, particularly any designation that puts at risk an existing use due to a poorly drawn boundary, was a clerical error and should be resolved under the authority clearly provided in Sec. 1221. Given the pure scale of this bill and legislative map, we realized this authority would be a vital tool to resolve these errors.

I'd also like to point out the clear intent within Sec. 1232. Section (e), which clearly states that non-wilderness activities or uses that can be seen or heard from areas within wilderness are to be left uninterrupted by this legislation.

On the topic of roads, we worked closely with BLM to ensure all roads in the 2008 RMP were not put into a wilderness designation, often referred to as "cherry stemmed". Our intent was to preserve these roads and for them to stay open. These cherry stems are of various sizes and were intended to ensure an adequate corridor is there to facilitate necessary maintenance. In the Recreation Area, we included language in Sec. 1222 to ensure the necessary maintenance to existing routes may continue and allow rerouting of roads or trails to protect the resources of the Recreation Area.

Finally, I would like to explain that the driving force for this compromise bill was certainty, and thus preventing the designation of a national monument using the authority granted to the President under the Antiquities Act. As so many know, national monument designations in my home state of Utah have been the source of extensive controversy. In my view, land management is most effective when it is driven by local voices, compromise, and well-reasoned planning. Sweeping designations via national monument are often politically-inspired and they erode the quality of management for the areas they intend to protect. With the passage of the Emery County legislation, the need for a national monument is forfeited because a clear plan has been laid out for the long-term management of the San Rafael Swell. To be clear, this is a view that was shared by the many parties, including locally elected officials, conservationists, and recreationists, that were intimately involved in the forging of this compromise legislation. Any